भाटिया): (क) से (घ) अब्दुल गनी लोन जो कि एक अलगाववाद का हामी राजनीति का सक्रिय कार्यकर्त्ता है और जिसके विदेश से प्रायोजित सैनिक गुटों से संबंध है, साधारणतः जम्मू और कश्मीर का निवासी है। इस वर्ष के शुरू में वह युनाइटेड किंगडम गया था और बाद में चिकित्सा उपचार के नाम पर ही अमरीका चला गया। वह जून, 1993 में भारत लौटा था।

सरकार को अमरीकी सहायक मंत्री रोबिन रैफल के बयान की जानकारी है जो उन्होंने अक्तूबर, 1993 में प्रतिनिधि सभा एशिया एवं प्रशान्त उप समिति के समक्ष दिया था और जिसमें यह कहा था कि अब्दुल गनी लोन "कश्मीरियों के ग्रुप का एक सदस्य है" जिससे अमरीका ने "पिछले डेढ़ वर्ष में विभिन्न स्थलों पर" बातचीत की है।

अब्दुल गनी लोन को 19 अक्तूबर, 1993 को श्रीनगर में उस समय गिरफ्तार किया गया था जबकि सशस्त्र उग्रवादियों ने श्रीनगर में हजरतबल मस्जिद पर कब्जा कर रखा था और इसी सिलसिले में लागू निषेधाज्ञा का वह उल्लंघन कर रहा था। बाद में उसे एक आज्ञा के अधीन 29 अक्तूबर, 1993 को नजरबंद कर लिया गया जो जम्मू और कश्मीर सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 1978 के अन्तर्गत जम्मू एवं कश्मीर राज्य की सरकार द्वारा जारी किया गया था। वह अब भी नजरबन्द है।

सरकार इस मामले में कोई विरोध प्रकट करना आवश्यक नहीं समझती।

Assistance Collected for Earthquake Victims from UAE and other Gulf Countries

1630. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 2nd October, 1993 to the affect that a large number of Indian expatriates living in UAE and other Gulf states have begun to collect assistance in the form of food, medicines and cash for displaced people in the earthquake hit areas of Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to contact them for seeking assistance given by them on humanitarian grounds; and

(c) the names of the countries which have come forward voluntarily to extend all help to India to tide over the unprecedented situation created by the recent earthquake in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian groups and associations in Gulf states have voluntarily made collections and donated whatever they had collected, in kind as well as in cash. Most of these donations have been sent through the good offices of the Indian Missions.

(c) Government to Government assistance has been provided by the following countries so far: Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Nanny, Switzerland, U.K., Sweden, Luxemburg, Hong Kong, Japan, Algeria, U.S.A., Kuwait, U.A.E., Turkey, Pakistan, Germany, Nauru, Mangolia, Bhutan, Maldives, Israel, Cuba, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Australia, Denmark, Qatar, Nepal.

Assistance through NGOs, National Red Cross Societies etc., was received from the following countries:—

Austria, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, France, U.A.E., Canada, Sweden, Thailand, U.S.A., Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Korea (ROK), New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Switzerland.

Computerisation at Passport Office in Ahmedabad

1631- SHRI VJTHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government havs introduced the computer-system at passport office in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) taking into consideration the heavy rush of applications;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what other steps would be taken for expediting the early disposal of passport applications?

THE MINISTER, OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have taken a number of measures to expedite the dispose of passport applications. These include augmentation of staff strength; increased supply of passport booklets; introduction of an incentive scheme; upgradation of office fecilities and a review of systems and procedures in order to increase productivity and reduce delays. The Passport office Ahmedabad is taking approximately 85 days for the issue of passports where the applications is complete in all respects as against 105 days a, year ago.

Resumption of Dialogue between India and Pakistan

1632. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that early resumption of dialogue between Pakistan and India at the Foreign Secretaries level has been agreed to between the two Governments;

(b) if so, the issue likely to be taken up for discussion at this meeting; and

(c) whether the Kashmir problem would also be discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The next round of Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan is scheduled to be held at Islamabad on 1-3 January, 1994. During these talks, it is envisaged that comprehensive discussions will be held on outstanding problems between the two countries including all aspects of the Jammu & Kashmir issue.

Inter Connection of Passport Officers in the Country via Satellite

1633. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to inter connect all the regional passport offices in the country via satellite to check the movement of persons indulging in anti-national activities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when this plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Irish President's Visit to India

1634. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Irish head of the State Mrs. Mary Robinson to New Delhi any bilateral agreements and understanding for cooperation were reached;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the agreements for cooperation in the matter of fighting terrorism particularly International terrorism and what steps have been and are being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A communique calling for annual consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs was concluded on 1 October, 1993.

(c) No agreements were concluded in this area.